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NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: February 21, 2008

Time: 9 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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SNOW AND ICE PREDICTED FOR FRIDAY COMMUTERS

A winter storm is predicted to bring snow and mixed wintry precipitation to Delaware starting in the early hours of Friday and continuing throughout the day. The National Weather Service issued a winter weather advisory that is currently in effect from 1 a.m., Friday, until 1 a.m., Saturday, in New Castle County.

Two to three inches of snow are expected to fall in the northernmost county with one to two inches in Kent County and one inch or less in Sussex County. Winter storm advisories for Kent and Sussex are predicted to be lifted Friday at 4 p.m. and 1 p.m. respectively. With precipitation starting well before dawn, morning commuters should expect to face snowy or icy roads in all three counties. If the storm system behaves as predicted, the afternoon commute could be equally challenging in New Castle.

Delaware Emergency Management Agency officials urge motorists to use caution when traveling and to avoid all unnecessary driving until roads are clear.

Delaware State Police Cpl/1 Jeff Whitmarsh said, "Motorists are urged to use extreme caution with the impending weather event. So far this season, emergency personnel have seen the number of traffic crashes investigated during inclement weather double or triple vs. the day before. Our goal is to have the motoring public get to and from their destinations safely by driving attentively and at a speed appropriate for the weather and road conditions."

DEMA and state police officials remind those who must drive during inclement weather to start early and allow extra time to reach their destinations. Safe driving practices during snowy, icy weather include increasing the distance between your vehicle and the car in front of you, allowing more time and distance for braking and reducing speed on all roads that are not dry and clear of snow and ice.

Friday daytime temperatures for New Castle and Kent counties are not expected to rise much above freezing. Frozen precipitation is predicted to change over to rain in most areas of the state, but

freezing rain and sleet mix could continue into the afternoon in northern Delaware and snow could return Friday evening.

Saturday temperatures are expected to be in the low to mid-forties throughout the state.

Although this system is not predicted to be a major storm, Delaware Emergency Management Agency officials remind drivers that during the winter, it is important to keep vehicles gassed up and to carry basic emergency equipment such as flash lights, boots and a first aid kit.

It is also a good time for residents to check the supplies in their household emergency kits. Everyone is encouraged to have at least a three-day supply of water and food for everyone in their family, including their pets. Emergency light sources, battery or crank powered radios and first aid supplies are also key ingredients in emergency kits. For detailed lists of recommended emergency supplies, check the DEMA website, www.dema.delaware.gov or call 659-3362. For information on free family preparedness presentations, call 659-2210.

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